

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

REGISTRATION STANDS FOR EFFICIENCY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—“A Manchester Nurse” in this week's number voices the feelings and expresses the gratitude to you for your courageous stand in our defence, that for various reasons we do not express for ourselves on State Registration, which is so earnestly opposed by those to whose interest it is to employ partly trained nurses and unskilled amateurs.

Until now British trained nurses have been grateful that there has been no Royal example of amateur nursing. Now, alas, the Press reports that a Princess of the Royal House is for the period of four weeks taking a course of training, chiefly in the dressing of wounds. Four hours a day, for four weeks! At the end of that time “It is expected that her instruction in the dressing of wounds will be complete.” Well, after eight years' work in hospital my instruction in the dressing of wounds proceeds apace.

I should be glad to hear if any of your readers tried the treatment of septic wounds described under the heading of “Lymph lavage” in your number of June 12th, and if so what results they had. It has been tried here, and has answered splendidly in cases where boric fomentations failed to release the pus. After two days' dressing, twice daily, with hyd. perchlor. and glycerine, as there recommended, the discharge was copious and less offensive, the wound cleaned up, and the swelling subsided, the limb becoming almost its normal size. Also a solution of mag. sulph. one in two is used here very freely for fomentations. On several occasions bad diarrhoea has seemed to result. Is it possible that the mag. sulph. could be absorbed to such an extent? Doctors I have asked say “No,” and of course it may be coincidence, the diarrhoea being the outcome of sepsis or some other irritating cause, but in at least two cases the diarrhoea has stopped within twelve hours of the fomentation being discontinued, and in one case it recommenced on the mag. sulph. being re-applied. I should like to hear other nurses' experience of this dressing.

Believe me, Dear Madam,

Yours truly,

M. S. WINTERS.

Royal Infirmary, Sunderland.

FAIR PLAY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly send me a copy of the Bill for State Registration of Trained Nurses? Will you also send me particulars of

membership? I am desirous of joining on account of Miss Sparshott's, to me, unfair remarks on the thirteenth annual report, which speaks of the confusion “at the outbreak of war.” Miss Sparshott answers in the present tense. It appears to me that the order which has arisen out of the chaos is largely the result of repeated representations from our trained nurses. Had there been a State Register that chaos, as you say, need not have existed. I do think Matrons of present training schools are inadequately represented on the Council.

Yours truly,

SISTER TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL.

[The correspondence in the *Manchester Courier* has brought us a number of interesting letters.

The facts of the case are that the War Office, in time of peace, empowered the Red Cross Society to provide voluntary nursing help, and as experienced trained nurses were persistently excluded from its organising committees, no provision of any sort was made for securing a roll of trained nurses willing to volunteer for active service. The selection of these nurses had to be hastily made after war was declared, and we repeat, chaos was the result.

With regard to the representation of Matrons of training schools on the General Nursing Council, provided in the Nurses' Representation Bill, the eight nurse representatives may all be Matrons in practice if their fellow Matrons and nurses elect them. Thus Matrons who are in sympathy with professional progress and organisation in whom the registered nurses had confidence, would be elected, and those who have in season and out of season opposed every demand of the rank and file might not be. These reactionary women would not be likely to alter their policy if by nomination seats were secured to them.—ED.]

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps service in France can be interviewed by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary, 60, Nevern Square, Earl's Court, S.W. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick will be at 431, Oxford Street, W., on Monday, July 26th, from 2.30 to 5 p.m., to see candidates, who must be well educated and hold a certificate for three years' training. Experience in fever nursing is an additional advantage.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

July 31st.—Name two communicable diseases, and state the manner in which the infection is carried.

August 7th.—State what you know about the iodine treatment of diphtheria.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We would remind our readers that they can help THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING by dealing as far as possible with advertisers in the paper, and getting their friends to do likewise. Only the most reliable firms are accepted by the management.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)